

**IN THE SPECIFICATION**

Please amend paragraph [0028] as follows:

[0028] Once the mounting screws and the insertion plate are removed, the surgeon uses a clip applicator of the present invention to mount retaining clips on the flanges to assist in retaining the bone screws. Each of the clips has a central attachment bore and, extending therefrom, a pair of oppositely directed laterally extending flanges and an upwardly (or downwardly) extending hooked flange. The clips can be snapped onto the element flanges (one clip onto each flange). Each of the laterally extending flanges of the clip is sized to cover at least a portion of a respective one of the bone screw heads when the clip is attached in this manner to the flange so that the clips help prevent the bone screws from backing out. In an alternate embodiment, the retaining device comprises a threaded member and a head flange member, the threaded member received into the threaded opening of the mounting screw holes left by the removal of the mounting screws and the insertion plate. The head flange defined by an outer perimeter, and extending from the threaded attachment member. The head flange is in part abuttingly received against a side of the flange of the intervertebral disc replacement device and the outer perimeter is partially received over a portion of the at least one bone screw to prevent the at least one bone screw from backing out of the at least one bone screw hole when the retaining device is fully engaged with the intervertebral disc replacement device. The head flange includes a solid portion and at least one stress relief area wholly contained within the confines of and not extending through the outer perimeter so that the at least one stress relief area is bounded on all lateral sides by the solid portion. The at least one stress relief located on the head flange at a point other than a central point of the head flange and providing for the head flange to be at least somewhat

flexible in a substantially axial direction of the threaded attachment member. In a preferred embodiment, the head flange includes four circular stress relief areas.